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OCI No. 0987/71

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 March 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PAKISTAN

(Situation as of 1200 EST)

1. The US and UK have decided to begin evacuation of American and British citizens from East Pakistan, but have not yet informed the Pakistanis. The US Consul General and the UK Deputy High Commissioner called on Major General Farman, of the Martial Law Administration in Dacca, on 30 March to discuss bringing US and UK citizens from Chittagong to Dacca. The general agreed to cooperate in the movement and said the military would contact American and British citizens in Chittagong and report on their safety. The US and UK officials plan to call on the general tomorrow to notify him of the decision to evacuate from East Pakistan women, children, and some men of both communities. Plans call for about 750 Americans to be evacuated, including about 115 from the Chittagong area. A special plane from Yugoslavia evacuated 60 Yugoslavs from Dacca today.

2. Despite reports from the Bengali clandestine radio, the situation in Dacca is apparently calm, and reports of heavy fighting for control of the airport are false. Available evidence, however, indicates that clashes are occurring outside of Dacca. General Farman admitted to the US Consul General on 30 March that some fighting was going on in Chittagong, but he declined to comment on reports that the Pakistan navy and air force had shelled and bombed parts of the city. A Japanese news agency claims that Japanese ships anchored at the port of Chittagong said that the city was

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engulfed in a conflagration the night of 29 March due to clashes between troops and citizens. The clandestine radio claims Pakistani jets have bombed and fired rockets at supporters of Mujibur Rahman in the cities of Comilla and Jessore. The US Consul General in Dacca reports that F-86 planes have been seen taking off from the airport at Dacca, but that no external armament was visible.

3. The US Consul General has reported some details on atrocities perpetrated by West Pakistani troops against East Pakistanis. [redacted]

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[redacted] on 27 March an estimated 1,000 students and professors were killed at Dacca University. Perhaps the most grisly incident occurred at a girls' residence, when the hall was set on fire and the girls machine gunned as they fled. Two mass graves have been found on the campus. Although the figure of 1,000 dead could be exaggerated, because the school was officially closed at the time, it is conceivable that many students gathered at the campus after trouble began the night of 25-26 March. The army apparently was intent on eliminating student leadership and as many as possible of the "troublesome" generation of students. Some students, including leaders, may have escaped, however, to organize resistance in the countryside. Other sources indicate that the army frequently used the same tactic against private homes, first setting fire to the dwellings and then gunning down the fleeing inhabitants. Instances of entire families being wiped out have been reported. In addition to concentrating on eliminating leadership within the Awami League, the army apparently set out to kill Hindus as well.

4. The Indian representative at the UN saw the US representative and the UN Secretary General on 29 March, seeking support for a statement of concern about the situation in East Pakistan by the Secretary General, to be followed by a meeting of the Security Council and the sending of a fact-finding mission. The Indian official said his government was not trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan, but felt obliged to do something on humanitarian grounds. The Secretary General, however, told the Indian official

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that the present time was not appropriate for such a statement, although he later told the US representative a statement would eventually be required.

5. There is apparently some Indian pressure on Ceylon to stop Pakistan's landing rights at Colombo airport. Pakistani aircraft flying from one wing of the country to the other have been refueling at Colombo in recent weeks due to the Indian prohibition against Pakistani aircraft flying across India. One Ceylonese official told US officials in Colombo that, based on experience with the Pakistanis during the past month over the question of landing rights, he believes President Yahya Khan was trying to buy time in negotiations with Mujibur Rahman in order to allow more reinforcements to arrive in East Pakistan.

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